



Paul Blechner

Partner

PBlechner@ggfirm.com

Ph. 310-201-7546

Fax 310-201-2333

As a litigation partner at Greenberg Glusker, Paul Blechner has handled cases in a variety of subject areas, including entertainment, employment, probate, and most recently, cryptocurrency fraud. While many cases have been successfully resolved by motion practice or settlement, he has taken to trial (in court or arbitration) over a dozen cases.

Paul's entertainment experience includes representing talent, production companies, and other entertainment clients in copyright, trademark, rights, and California's Talent Agencies Act disputes. He also spent several years as VP, General Counsel and Head of Business Affairs for one of the top talent agencies.

His employment experience includes resolving disputes around claims of wrongful termination, retaliation, sexual harassment, discrimination, and wage and hour.

Paul's probate experience includes contests to the validity of trust documents, disputes relating to advanced health care directives and their activation, and the Heggstad Petition to address the proper titling of trust property.

In addition to continuing and expanding his work in those and other areas, a primary focus of Paul's practice since 2018 has been representing clients who have suffered cryptocurrency losses following a "SIM swap/hack" of their mobile phones. Building on extensive legal and investigative work that he handled earlier in his career involving corporate embezzlement and other financial fraud activity, he has developed the factual and legal theories to pursue claims against both carriers and thieves to hold them responsible and accountable for losses suffered by his clients.

Handling multiple matters in recent years in litigation and arbitration, Paul has secured substantial recoveries for clients. Critical to the development of these cases and his understanding of this field, he has interviewed several of the thieves (frequently teenagers) to hear firsthand their accounts of what occurred and to provide him with invaluable and unique insight into which successful thefts are carried out. More generally, the complex nature of these digital thefts has led him to a broader understanding of the cryptocurrency, privacy, and data security industries.

With prior experience as a judicial clerk in the Southern District of California and as in-house counsel, Paul brings a unique understanding of both the court's and the client's perspective to each matter.

Bar Admissions

- California

Court Admissions

- United States District Court for the Central District of California

Education

- New York University School of Law (J.D., 1991)
- Occidental College (B.A., 1988)

Representative Experience

A sample of representative litigation related matters include:

- Co-chaired successful defense of multi-week arbitration involving contract, fraud and RICO claims seeking hundreds of millions of dollars from Fortune 500 client
- Arbitrated to final award multiple claims seeking unpaid commissions owed to client
- Filed contract and trademark claims on behalf of major studio to protect merchandising rights emanating from motion pictures in dispute that included issues over the whether grant of rights extended to new media and technologies
- Defended film distribution company against production company claiming movie rights in dispute involving whether short form agreement constituted binding option agreement
- Represented employers in the resolution and defense of actions brought by former employees, including claims of alleging wrongful termination, constructive termination, retaliation, sexual harassment, and discrimination
- Defeated music group's fraud and related claims against record company that improperly sought to use "parol evidence" to plead around contract provisions
- Relied on anti-SLAPP laws to secure early dismissal and attorneys' fees award in baseless action seeking to interfere with attorney-client relationship in underlying wage and hour claim
- Obtained reversal from Court of Appeals by way of writ proceeding of dismissal of contempt proceeding brought on behalf of client seeking contempt findings against neighbor for multiple acts of violating a restraining order; upon remand, prosecuted multi-day court trial, obtaining contempt findings and an award of penalties that include jail time
- Obtained findings of contempt and award of monetary fines in collateral civil proceeding based on defendant's violation of order freezing disputed funds
- Conducted multiple pre-trial investigations for employers, with matters ranging from sexual harassment and hostile workplace environment claims to embezzlement or kickback schemes, culminating in advice and recommendations to clients and evidence used to pursue or resolve claims

- Used discovery and prejudgment remedies to locate and preserve funds ultimately recovered in embezzlement actions against employees